AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising:
 a carcass;
 - a tread disposed radially outward of said carcass, said tread including an equatorial plane;
 - a sidewall including a shoulder that intersecting intersects said tread-at a shoulder; and

a belt reinforcing structure positioned radially between said carcass and said tread, the

belt reinforcing structure including a plurality of cut belts extending axially into said shoulder, a

plurality of overlapping spiral wound belt layers positioned radially between said plurality of cut

belts and said tread and extending axially into said shoulder, and a plurality of spiral wound

shoulder layers overlapping at least a portion of said plurality of cut belts proximate in said

shoulder, said plurality of spiral wound belt layers and said plurality of spiral wound shoulder

layers formed by a continuous cord-reinforced strip having a strip width, said plurality of spiral

wound belt layers characterized by a first winding pitch of greater than or equal to one strip

width per revolution, and said plurality of spiral wound shoulder layers characterized by a

second winding pitch of less than one strip width per revolution.

- 2. (Cancelled)
- 3. (Original) The pneumatic tire of claim 1 wherein said plurality of spiral wound shoulder layers includes four spiral wound shoulder layers.

4. (Original) The pneumatic tire of claim 3 wherein the second winding pitch is about 0.2 of a strip width per revolution.

- 5. (Original) The pneumatic tire of claim 1 wherein the second winding pitch is about 0.2 of a strip width per revolution.
- 6. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic tire of claim 1 wherein said belt reinforcing structure includes six cut belt layers[[,]] and two spiral wound belt layers and six spiral wound shoulder layers.
- 7. (Original) The pneumatic tire of claim 6 wherein at least two of said spiral wound shoulder layers are applied with a second winding pitch of about zero.
- 8. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic tire of claim 1 wherein said plurality of spiral wound belt layers and said plurality of spiral wound shoulder layers are wound with a zero degree spiral <u>overlay</u>.
- 9-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of reinforcing the shoulder first and second shoulders of a pneumatic tire, comprising:

applying a plurality of cut belt layers to a carcass;

winding a cord-reinforced strip circumferentially about the plurality of cut belt layers with a first winding pitch in an axial direction greater than or equal to one strip width to form a first spiral wound belt layer extending from a location proximate to the second shoulder to a location proximate to the first shoulder; [[and]]

winding the cord-reinforced strip with a second winding pitch in the axial direction less than one strip width proximate [[each]] the first shoulder of the tire for applying a first plurality of overlapping spiral wound shoulder [[belts]] layers at [[each]] the first shoulder having a partially overlapping relationship with a first lateral free [[edges]] edge of said cut belt layers;

winding the cord-reinforced strip circumferentially about the first spiral wound belt layer
at the first winding pitch to form a second spiral wound belt layer extending from the first
shoulder to the second shoulder; and

winding the cord-reinforced strip with the second winding pitch proximate the second shoulder of the tire for applying a second plurality of overlapping spiral wound shoulder layers having a partially overlapping relationship with a second lateral free edge of said cut belt layers.

- 14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the second winding pitch is about 0.2 of a strip width per revolution.
- 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein said spiral wound belt layers and said plurality of spiral wound shoulder layers are wound with a zero degree spiral overlay.

17-19. (Cancelled)